

Response

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Claim Rejections 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 4 and 5 were previously rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. This rejection was overcome by amendment.

In the present action the rejection is “sustained” without further comment. Sustained is defined as “to support or bear up” or, in the alternative, to “confirm or corroborate”. Applicants request clarification. If the rejection is maintained further information regarding the reason would be appropriate. If the rejection is withdrawn Applicants request a statement that this is the case.

Claim Rejections Based On Cited Art – General Comments

Applicants maintain the contention that silanol modified polyvinyl alcohol is not taught in the cited art. The Office has cited examples wherein silica and polyvinyl alcohol are taken together as a mixture to argue that this would form a copolymer known in the art as “silanol modified polyvinyl alcohol”. The rejection appears to be based on a reading of the term “silanol modified polyvinyl alcohol” which would include any reaction product between a silica containing compound and a polyvinyl alcohol.

In an effort to advance the application to allowance the term of art “silanol modified polyvinyl alcohol” has been replaced with the equivalent term “copolymer of polyvinylacetate and silane” in accordance with the disclosure on page 7 wherein it is described that the copolymer of polyvinylacetate and silane forms the compound known as silanol modified

polyvinyl alcohol. No new matter is entered by the amendments and no new issues are presented since the terms, as defined in the specification, are equivalent.

With regards to claim 9, the term “cationic substance” has been amended to refer to “cationic mordant”. Support for the amendment is provided on page 9, lines 5-6 of the specification.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mochizuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,238,784).

Mochizuki is cited as disclosing the ink-jet recording sheet as claimed including a silanol modified polyvinyl alcohol. Mochizuki does not disclose the copolymer of vinyl acetate and silane, typically referred to as silanol modified PVA, and recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-3 and 6-8 ultimately depend from, and further limit, claim 1. Claims 2-3 and 6-8 are patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

Removal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 as being unpatentable over Mochizuki et al. is now proper and respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 4-5 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki et al. in view of Niemoller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,853,540) and further in view of Nordeen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,022,440).